

that Macedonia changed its flag and constitution to allay Greece's fears, today the Hellenic Republic continues to object to countries and international institutions recognizing the Republic of Macedonia by its constitutional name.

Without going into great detail on this subject, it is important to note that the Macedonians do not claim exclusivity over the word "Macedonia" and do not in fact object to Greece using it in any way it sees fit.

There are now 118 countries around the world recognizing the Republic of Macedonia by its rightful and constitutional name, including Russia, China and, I am proud to say, the United States of America. Just last month, Canada became the latest country to recognize the Republic of Macedonia. We did the right thing when we recognized the Republic of Macedonia in November 2004, and I am grateful for the President's leadership in righting a historic wrong.

This past summer, the now former Greek Ambassador to Macedonia was sacked by her own government for admitting that Greece should agree to a double-name formula, something the Macedonians have been arguing for since Greece first raised objections.

The relationship between Macedonian and Greek citizens could not be stronger. Greek businessmen conduct a large amount of business in Macedonia and have no problem with the name. In September, the Republic of Macedonia waived the requirement for Greeks to bring their passports when they come to visit Macedonia. Today, Greeks simply need an identity card. Macedonians in turn spend much of their vacation time in Greece during the summer months. The two countries cooperate on many other issues and enjoy good relations.

It is time for our Greek friends to allow the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia to enjoy their sovereign right to determine the name of their own country. It is time for Greece to drop its objections in the political arena, and to leave to the historians debates about Alexander the Great and the ancient Macedonians.

We live in the here and the now, and it is time to move forward. Our Greek friends enjoy pointing out their contributions to modern-day democracy and for that we thank them. Let them now contribute in their longstanding tradition of supporting democratic values by allowing the people of the Republic of Macedonia to call themselves by what they have always called themselves and by dropping their objections to a country that only desires friendship and has proven itself as a great friend and ally.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO HONOR THE 50TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ALTHEA GIBSON BECOMING THE FIRST PERSON OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ANCESTRY TO WIN THE U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP AND WIMBLEDON

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to honor the 50th anniversary of Ms. Althea Gibson becoming the first African American to win the

U.S. Championship and Wimbledon. Her accomplishments signified a change in our Nation's climate in which racial discrimination was challenged on the tennis court and in the Supreme Court. The 50th anniversary of Althea Gibson's victory at the U.S. Championship and Wimbledon is worthy of congressional recognition, and I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating an extraordinary woman, and an extraordinary chapter in U.S. history.

The eldest daughter of sharecroppers who moved from South Carolina to Harlem during the Depression, Althea Gibson was born on August 25, 1927 in Silver, South Carolina. She had one primary desire: to be somebody. Thirty years later, Queen Elizabeth II presented her with the Championship trophy at Wimbledon, and Vice President Richard Nixon presented Althea Gibson with the United States Championship trophy at Forest Hills. By the end of her career, she won nearly 100 awards for tennis, and defeated men and women on nearly every continent in a sport that was historically restricted from people of her race and class. Althea Gibson was accurate when she declared that she had come "a long way from being forced to sit in the colored section of the bus." In an era of gender and racial discrimination, this African American woman was an international celebrity and a symbol of excellence and determination in the early years of the Civil Rights Movement.

Madam Speaker, Althea Gibson defied prejudiced conceptions of female and African American athletes from the time she played racket ball in the streets of Harlem until the time she competed in the world's most prestigious competitions. Her undeniable talent not only moved people across lines of race and class to support Gibson in her relentless desire to succeed, but also moved people to change the rules that maintained systems of inequality. In 1949, she attended my alma mater, Florida A&M University, on a full athletic scholarship due to the guidance and support of a New York doctor and his wife. Gibson received what the vast majority of African American women could not: an education. As white and black high profile athletes endorsed Gibson, people began to question if integration was an inevitable occurrence that would benefit tennis as it had benefited basketball, football, baseball. On August 28, 1950, the face and rules of tennis changed, and Althea Gibson became the first African American to compete at the National Open.

Madam Speaker, Althea Gibson's great triumphs did not come without great peril and adversity. Although she was hailed as the Queen of Tennis, racial prejudice excluded her from lodging in the hotels that surrounded the arenas where she competed and defended her crown. Refusing to let prejudice, poverty, or consistent threats against her life compromise her drive to succeed, Gibson fought prejudice when she won on tennis courts that were previously segregated. An actress, musician, teacher and athlete, Althea Gibson was the quintessential Renaissance woman who refused to compromise her dignity and the dignity of her people on or off the court.

Althea Gibson continued to be a woman of firsts in the years that followed her tennis career. During the same year as the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Althea Gibson became the first African American member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association. In

1971 Althea Gibson was the first African American to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame—the only African American woman of the 200 athletes who have received this honor in its 52 year history. Twenty years later, Althea Gibson became the first woman to receive the Theodore Roosevelt Award in 1991, the highest honor awarded by the National Collegiate Athletic Association for "symbolizing the best qualities of competitive excellence and good sportsmanship, and for her significant contribution to expanding opportunities for women and minorities through sports."

Madam Speaker, 4 years after her death, and 50 years after her win at the U.S. Championship and Wimbledon, Althea Gibson continues to be a universal example of strength and excellence. The Althea Gibson Foundation was established to support underprivileged youth in their drive to succeed in golf, tennis, and the classroom, and to ensure that Althea Gibson's legacy of excellence, tenacity, and dedication lives on. Her life affirms what many of us already know: Great athletes have the ability to unify and inspire beyond the realm of sports.

Althea Gibson famously said "In the field of sports you are more or less accepted for what you do rather than what you are." In a world plagued by poverty, segregation and racial prejudice, Althea Gibson saw sports as the epitome of what our country should be—a true meritocracy. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution to preserve the memory of Althea Gibson and other athletes who were pioneers in their time and inspirations for future generations.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2007*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, October 1, 2007.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 924 (Motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 185), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 925 (Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2276), and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 926 (Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3325).

#### FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3121) to restore the financial solvency of the national flood insurance program and to provide for such program to make available multiperil coverage for damage resulting from windstorms and floods, and for other purposes:

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Chairman, floods are amongst the most frequent and costly national

disasters in terms of human hardship and economic loss. In fact, 75 percent of Federal disaster declarations are related to flooding.

Before I discuss the merits of the legislation, I would like to talk briefly about the process that is being considered. We are debating a huge expansion of an already struggling existing Federal program, and yet we have not been able to have our amendments out on the floor to have an open and frank discussion about this.

I would like to accept the chairman's offer to continue to work on the amendments that were not allowed to be offered, and I hope that we can see democracy being served by letting everybody's voice be heard.

In 1968, Congress established the National Flood Insurance Program, NFIP. The program is a partnership between the Federal Government and participating communities. If a community adopts and enforces a floodplain management ordinance to reduce future flood risk to new construction, the Federal Government will make flood insurance available to that community. Today, NFIP is the largest single-line property insurer in the Nation, serving nearly 20,000 communities and providing flood insurance coverage for 5.4 million consumers.

Mr. Chairman, recent events have underscored the need to reform and modernize certain aspects of the program. While the NFIP is designed to be actuarially sound, it does not collect sufficient premiums to build up reserves for unexpected disasters. Due to the claims resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the NFIP was forced to borrow \$7.6 billion from the Treasury, an amount it estimates it will never be able to repay. Consequently, NFIP sits on the GAO's High-Risk Programs list, which recommends increased congressional oversight. Additionally, the 2005 storms shed light on the problem of outdated flood maps, resulting in many homeowners in the gulf region being unaware that their homes were located in floodplains.

To address these and other concerns in 2006, the House overwhelmingly passed flood insurance reform legislation. Earlier this year, Chairman FRANK and Representative JUDY BIGGERT introduced legislation identical to that bipartisan bill. That bill includes many reforms, including the phasing in of actuarial rates, but unfortunately, the flood insurance bill that the majority chose to move out of the Financial Services Committee was amended to incorporate legislation offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) which expands the NFIP to include coverage for wind events.

Mr. Chairman, no Member of this House was more personally affected by the 2005 hurricanes than Congressman TAYLOR. I do not, and no one questions his sincerity or his commitment to assisting those who have lost everything they owned in these storms. While I share his concern over the rising costs and outright unavailability of homeowners' wind coverage in some areas, I have three principal objections to linking wind insurance to the reform of the National Flood Insurance Program.

First, expanding the program increases liabilities for taxpayers while decreasing options for customers or consumers. Properties located along the eastern seaboard and gulf coast represent \$19 trillion of insured value. Shifting the risk on even a portion of these properties to the troubled NFIP could expose taxpayers to massive losses. The fact is that insurance will choose not to engage a compet-

itor that does not pay taxes, has subsidized borrowing costs, and is not required to build a reserve surplus and is protected from most lawsuits, State regulation and enforcement.

Second, adding wind coverage to the NFIP will exacerbate the program's well-documented administrative problems. Both the Department of Homeland Security and GAO have criticized the NFIP for being understaffed, not having adequate flood maps and not collecting sufficient information on wind payments when claims were submitted for flood damage. Expanding the portfolio further before much-needed reforms are in place is premature.

Third, no consensus yet exists about the necessity or desirability of creating a Federal wind insurance program. In testimony before our committee, representatives of flood management groups, the insurance industry, environmental organizations, Treasury and FEMA all expressed agreement that a comprehensive study of the proposed wind insurance mandate should first be commissioned to provide Congress with a better understanding of the possible implications this expansion could have for consumers, NFIP and the market.

Mr. Chairman, we must not let the desire to meet every perceived problem with a new Government program drive us towards premature actions that yield unwanted consequences. The NFIP's mission should not be expanded, exposing taxpayers to massive new risks, until reforms are in place and adequate study has been conducted.

In addition to the above reservations, I have serious concerns with the effect the addition of wind coverage will have on communities that are now relying on NFIP. This program is already financially unstable, yet we are about to add \$19 trillion of risk. Despite this fiscal instability, States like West Virginia, that I represent, will still rely on the program to provide assistance in the case of serious flooding. Thankfully, there have not been major problems this year, but since I was elected to Congress in 2000, there have been nine federally declared flooding disasters in West Virginia. In 2001 alone, FEMA provided \$17 million in assistance to my State, and between 2004 and 2006 the National Flood Insurance Program received and paid more than \$30 million in claims from West Virginia flood victims.

There are serious needs in West Virginia and across the Nation for the flood insurance program. We should be modernizing NFIP so it can become financially stable, not jeopardizing its existence by exposing it—and our taxpayers—to trillions of dollars of liability.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LAS VEGAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce has been serving the Las Vegas community as the ultimate business resource in Clark County since its inception in 1911. Their mission to strengthen, enhance and protect businesses, alongside their values of leadership, excellence, integrity, and innovation work together to convey their vision to be an advocate for the State of Nevada.

The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce is the largest, most influential business organization in the state of Nevada and the third-largest local Chamber of Commerce in the United States. Its membership exceeds 6,700 members. 85 percent of these are small business owners with 25 or fewer employees.

The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce is an organization of business leaders who work to improve their community and the area's business climate. They are governed by a volunteer board of trustees, and the chamber thrives off of the support and involvement of its members which is open to all businesses. The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce provides for its members vast benefits such as networking opportunities, political advocacy, and heightened credibility to name a few. The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce works diligently for its members by promoting a strong local community, providing opportunities for their businesses to grow, and enhancing commerce through community stewardship.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. I would personally like to thank all of those participating for taking time out of their lives in order to come to Washington, DC and meet with Congressional Leadership. The dedication and service of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce should set an example for all businesses, and members of the community alike. I applaud all of their efforts and look forward to watching their future accomplishments.

#### IN HONOR OF BRANDON AND SPENCER WHALE

#### HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2007*

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brandon and Spencer Whale, brothers from Ross Township, Pennsylvania. I met these two young men when they visited my office on behalf of the American Heart Association and was impressed to discover that, before the age of 10, they had both created inventions to improve the lives of hospital patients.

At only the age of 8, Brandon developed a medical device that is used to this day. Brandon made improvements to an electrode bracelet used to transmit a patient's vital heart data to the hospital from the patient's home. The standard bracelet was too big for his mother's small wrists, so Brandon discovered a way to modify the bracelet for different wrist sizes and enhance its conductivity.

Brandon's younger brother, Spencer, created a device to secure IV drip strands to children's toy cars. Spencer, at the age of 6, got the idea after watching parents push IV poles behind their kids while they raced through the hospital's play rooms in toy cars. Spencer found a way for the toy cars to bear the weight of the medical equipment and, as a result, all toy cars at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh are now equipped with Spencer's IV holders.

Spencer and Brandon have been inducted into the National Gallery for Young Inventors. At the time of their induction they were the two youngest inventors ever inducted into the National Gallery for Young Inventors. They serve